

Troops to Teachers program highlighted at White House conference

Troops to Teachers was one of the teacher recruitment programs highlighted at the recent White House Conference on Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers, sponsored by the First Lady, Laura Bush. The event, held in the East Wing of the White House on 5 March, focused on the critical problem facing the nation to provide over two million qualified teachers to fill classroom shortages during the next decade.

Mrs. Bush began the conference by focusing on three main issues

President Bush spoke at the end of the conference and emphasized the need for teachers with the ability to communicate effectively. "We expect them, as always, to be examples to our children, to live a life of good character," the president said. He talked about Troops to Teachers and Teach for America as good examples of innovative programs that can attract the quality teachers needed "to make sure America is an educated society."

One of the featured speakers was Mr. Arthur Moore, a retired Army

Baltimore Resident Teacher program because of the \$5,000 stipend and assistance he received from Troops to Teachers in 1995. He spoke passionately about serving again in a profession that holds the future of America in its hands. "Our students deserve to have teachers who are dedicated and caring. These needs are most noticeable in our urban school districts like the one I work in (Baltimore City Schools)."

"Teaching is a profession we cannot take lightly," Moore emphasized. "We are charged by our community to prepare young minds to be our future

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"The military trains its members to be leaders, to accomplish missions given, and above all to take care of those below them. These skills can be great assets when working with children."

Mr. Arthur Moore, Retired Army Staff Sergeant

facing American public education today:

the growing teacher shortage in America;

the need for improving teaching standards; and

the need for accountability systems to make sure students are learning what they need to know in every subject.

Ms. Bush said: "Children achieve when their teachers clearly know their subject, when they know how to teach it, and when they regularly measure their students' progress."

Staff Sergeant who began his new career as a teacher through the Troops to Teachers program. Mr. Moore, now a special education teacher at the Abbottston Elementary School in inner-city Baltimore, Maryland, stated his experience in the military has been especially valuable in his new career as a teacher.

During his speech titled "Proud to Serve," Mr. Moore stated that, "The military trains its members to be leaders, to accomplish missions given, and above all to take care of those below them. These skills can be great assets when working with children." Mr. Moore was able to enter the

Otto Thomas: Director of Educational Opportunities

Mr. Otto Thomas is currently Director of the Educational Opportunities Directorate in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Previously, he was Chief of DOD Continuing Education and Deputy Director of Education for Continuing, Adult and Postsecondary

Continued on page 7, THOMAS

Distance Learning

DANTES Distance Learning news

DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs update

The Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council approved the following new courses and degree programs:

American College of Computer and Information Sciences

New Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems

American Military University: New Bachelor of Arts in International Relations

Ashworth College

New Associate degree in Computer Information Management and new Associate degree in Health Care Management

Cardean University

New Internet Marketing: Web Value, Investments: Derivatives & Options, Topics in Competitive Strategy, Decision Modeling Linear Models course modules

Columbia Southern University

New Certified Natural Medicine Specialist certificate programs

Education Direct

New Dog Obedience Trainer/Instructor course

Institute of Logistical Management

New Motor Carrier Operations course

DANTES External Degree Catalog update

Add the following to the schools affiliated with DANTES:

American InterContinental University OnLine

2895 Greenspoint Parkway
Suite 400
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195
Toll free: 877-701-3800
Fax: (847) 585-2695
E-mail: info@aiu-online.com
Internet: <http://www.aiu-online.com>

Associate of Arts in Business Administration
Bachelor in Information Technology
Masters in Information Technology
MBA in Global Technology Management

Marywood University

2300 Adams Avenue
Scranton, PA 18509
(570) 348-6235
Toll free: 800-836-6940
Fax: (570) 961-4751
E-mail: OCDP@ac.marywood.edu

Internet: <http://www.Marywood.edu>

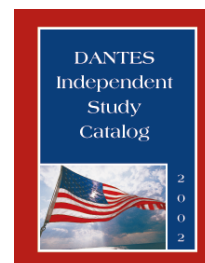
www.Marywood.edu

Bachelor of Science in Accounting
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Certificates in Comprehensive Business Skills, Office Administration and Professional Communications

Coming soon: 2002 distance learning catalogs

The 2002 editions of the DANTES distance learning catalogs are being distributed. Look for them to arrive early next month.



TROOPS TO TEACHERS FROM 1

leaders. There are many members of the Armed Forces who can answer the call to serve. Troops to Teachers can provide the bridge needed for those wishing to step into the classroom."

The "No Child Left Behind Act" signed into law by President Bush in January of this year authorizes the continuation of the Troops to Teachers program. The law also provides for financial assistance to help retiring military personnel and members of the Guard and Reserve with 10 or more years of service begin a new career in public education. This will be the first time that funding has been available to provide financial assistance to Troops to Teachers participants since 1995.

To learn more about Troops to Teachers go to their home page at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt>.

Calendar

May

7, 8, 9 ASE (Overseas)
7, 9, 14 ASE

June

7 Excelsior Extended
Response (Essay)
10 LSAT
15-19 Praxis*

July

15-19 CLEP General English
Composition w/Essay*

August

2 Excelsior Extended
Response (Essay)

Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders 6 weeks before the test date. Conus test centers send orders 4 weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/exam/01-02htm>

Reminder: The SAT Program shuts down scoring in late summer. Do not schedule SAT testing in July/August. See DEPH SAT Chapter 3.

Excelsior introduces Management in Nursing Examination

Effective 1 April, Excelsior College introduced a new **Management in Nursing Examination**, which is required to complete the Nursing Degree Program. This multiple-choice exam measures the ability to apply specific management concepts to the care of the client (individual, family, groups/communities) within diverse health care settings. Major concepts tested include leadership, innovation, managing the organization, fiscal management, empowerment, and information management.



For more information contact Julie Monson at 888-647-2388. (At the automated greeting, please press 1-1-8788) or E-mail jmonson@excelsior.edu.

CLEP Subject test reminder

Effective 30 June 2002, the following CLEP paper-based Subject exams can no longer be administered at DANTES Test Centers:

American Government (30155)
College Algebra & Trigonometry (10049)
Human Growth & Development (14079)
Introductory Sociology (31127)
Principles of Marketing (69019)
Trigonometry (12025)

These exams are available as computer-based tests (CBTs) through **national test centers** (colleges and universities). If referred to a national test center, military examinees are

responsible for paying the registration fee charged by the college or university **and** the test fee charged by the College Board. The registration fee varies and the test fee is \$46.

For an updated listing of CLEP national test centers, visit <http://www.collegeboard.org/clep>.

Unlike paper-based CLEP testing at DANTES Test Centers, CLEP CBT test results are not automatically reported to AARTS, CCAF, Coast Guard Institute, or SMART. Examinees need to request a transcript from the **civilian** CLEP Transcript Request Service. For transcript information and fees, see the *DANTES Examination Program Handbook*, CLEP Chapter, p. II-5-22.

Certification Training

VA approved more than 130 certifying organizations

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has approved more than 130 certification and licensure organizations.

Veterans or active duty military personnel who possess benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) are eligible to receive payment for taking an approved organization's test(s) for up to \$2000 cap per test. This benefit enhancement came out under Public Law 106-419, signed on 1 November 2000 and became effective 1 March 2001.

For additional information on this DVA program, please go to <http://gibill.va.gov/> and click on "VA now reimburses....".

Other links of interest for this program include the *Frequently Asked Questions* section at <http://gibill.va.gov/Education/LCVets.htm>, and *How to apply for reimbursement and the approved listings of organizations* at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/Education/Lcweb/search.asp>.

Organizations are searchable by state (headquarters location), alphabetical, or keyword. Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact the Regional DVA office in their state to answer questions. These are listed on the above web site.



VA briefing valuable addition to DANTES workshops

At the DANTES Services workshop, 12-14 March 2002, Mary Lee Hudson from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Headquarters provided a briefing to workshop participants from all Service branches, both active and Reserve components.

Ms. Hudson informed the group that "because almost 50 percent of those military members who have paid for Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) benefits do not use them, VA has recently stepped up their outreach." These initiatives include working with recruiting commands and the use of

ROTC bar to MGIB eligibility, as well as other changes. She provided information on specific issues, such as MGIB "Top-Up" to tuition assistance. In addition, she encouraged participants to keep up with program changes by using the following VA web pages: the home page, <http://www.va.gov> with links to all VA programs and the education page at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Betty Keese, DANTES Training Manager, reports that "information on education benefits is one of the

Information on education benefits is one of the most asked for topics at DANTES workshops.

regular mailings on the MGIB. She said that these mailings to active duty members are sent at members' 12-month, 2-year, and "near discharge" points on active duty.

These outreach efforts are designed to raise military members' awareness of the opportunity to use the benefits while still on active duty after a minimum period of service and that benefits can be used not only for college, but also for on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs, and flight training. The VA hopes to correct many of the misconceptions military members have about using their GI Bill benefits.

Ms. Hudson also discussed recent legislative changes to VA education benefits regarding transferability, accelerated MGIB payments, MGIB eligibility for Vietnam-era vets, the

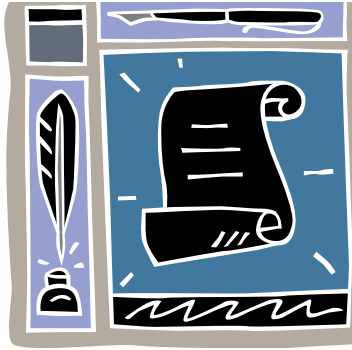
most asked for" topics at DANTES workshops. As one recent workshop participant said, "This briefing reminds me that I am not the only person having trouble understanding VA benefits." Other participants have suggested having more time devoted to the subject and to split up the briefing into two parts—one dealing with the active component and the other, the reserve component. At the next DANTES Regional Workshop, Ms. Keese indicated plans are to have the VA talk to the two groups separately and, hopefully to devote more time to the subject.

Registration is ongoing for the next DANTES Regional Workshop to be held at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, on 22 and

Continued on page 7, VA workshops

Contract talk

DANTES is working to establish a new 5-year contract with Consulting Psychologists Press for the Strong Interest and Comprehensive Skills Inventory (SCI) and the Myers-



Briggs Type Indicator. A major change appears to be in the area of online delivery. We will be phasing out the CD-ROM delivery mode and moving to more online delivered materials. As more information becomes available, we will pass it along.

All current users of the DISCOVER should have the software in place. If you have not received it, E-mail Vince Harmon at vharmon@voled.doded.mil or call DSN 922-1884 or (850) 452-1884 so the shipped materials can be traced.

If any site wishes to participate in the use of DISCOVER, we still have four available to release. E-mail the above address to request this software. The NCS Pearson delivered Campbell Interest and Skills Survey (CISS) online has proved most beneficial to many Service

members.

Sites should contact NCS at <http://assessments.ncspearsons.com/assessments/careers/dantes-military.htm>, or the access for family members at <http://assessments.ncspearsons.com/assessments/careers/dantes-famil.htm>. Please remember that family members must have a credit card available to prepay for the Inventory as they sign up.

DANTES and the National Career Assessment Service, Inc. are working to alter the training provided to a more hands-on, user-friendly session. We are developing a model of training using the Inventory and having individuals actually take it and evaluate their own results, thus providing a better understanding of the tool for use later in their counseling sessions with individuals.

NCS Internet addresses

<http://assessments.ncspearsons.com/assessments/careers/dantes-military.htm>,

or for family members at:

<http://assessments.ncspearsons.com/assessments/careers/dantes-famil.htm>.

DANTES offers special counseling aids

DANTES' Reference Publications Manager has developed several special aids for those who work in the military voluntary education arena. Here is a list of what is available:

Financial Aid Resources for Military Personnel and Dependents

Internet Sites for Counselors

Military Education Acronyms

Military Education Web Sites

Reference Publications Online

If you are a new counselor, these handouts could certainly be useful. Even if you've been involved with military voluntary education for several years, you may find the information helpful.

To obtain a copy of any or all, contact Ms. Sheila Nyjordet at DSN 922-1763 or (850) 452-1763 or E-mail her at snyjorde@voled.doded.mil.

These types of counseling aids, plus much more, are posted on the Military Counselor Network (MCNet). We encourage you to join!

For more information on MCNet, go to <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/refpubs/mcn/index.htm>.

From the Advisor's Desk

Reaching the "End-User"

by MGySgt James P. O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor



MGySgt O'Keefe

What catches your attention- Bright lights? Loud noises? Chocolate? Chances are- the answer is as different as we are as individuals. However, I believe that an important aspect of Voluntary Education support is exposure and access to the information. Unfortunately, many of our women and men

proportionate to the line of communication that exists between the command enlisted leadership and the Education Center. Nothing can take the place of personal testimony from a leader (command enlisted OR education center professional) and "getting eye balls" on your community.

Regular involvement in the command training cycle and new-join



"Reaching" the Marines of MCLB, Albany, Georgia

in uniform are still unaware of the many VolEd opportunities available! During my installation visits across the map, one of the questions I pose to our DOD community of NCOs, Staff NCOs, Petty Officers, Chief's mess, Top-3, and other enlisted leaders is- "As a leader, how do you describe the process of pursuing and attaining higher education to your people?" I believe this capability is key in promoting Voluntary Education! I also believe the presence or absence of this powerful outreach tool is directly

briefings are essential to reaching the end-user. Other effective outreach strategies include:

TV/Radio announcements

Base Newspaper features-
"Education success stories" /
Awards

Posters / Flyers / Stickers

Education Fairs

Your web site link to <http://voled.doded.mil/>

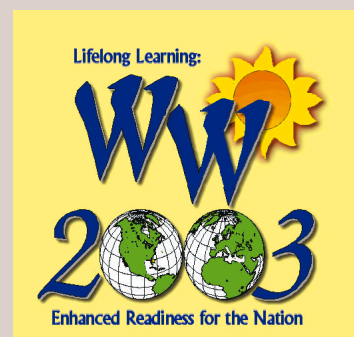
See http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/slides/VoluntaryEducationOutreach_files/sld001.htm

Have you discovered some effective outreach tools? Write our DANTES Program Manager, Ms. Pat Landry at plandry@voled.doded.mil and share your successes.

DOD WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

7-11 July 2003

Orlando World Center
Marriott Resort &
Convention Center
Orlando, Florida



For Symposium information,
go to
<http://www.ww-003.com>

ACME highlights—South Carolina

by Pat Landry, ACME Coordinator

This month we are featuring the Council on Military Education in South Carolina (COMESC).



South Carolina has a rich history when it comes to the military. Over the years when other states have been considered for base closure, South Carolina has remained fairly untouched. The State enjoys and benefits from a number of military installations. It is one of the few states that can boast that all five branches of service are represented in the state.

It is for this reason the Council on Military Education in South Carolina or COMESC came into existence. In the 1970s the Commissioner for Higher Education in South Carolina asked to meet with the Education Services Officers (ESOs) in South Carolina. The purpose was twofold. One was for ESOs to meet each other, and the second was to brainstorm a forum to improve communication and encourage cooperative and coordinated efforts between post-secondary education programs and the military service members in South Carolina.

At first the council was composed of only governmental personnel, but it was quickly realized that members from the colleges who supported military education should also be included.

Today, COMESC has not changed a great deal, and the purpose is still the same: to enhance programs for military personnel who are stationed in South Carolina. The organization

also strives to promote understanding of the military, state, and institutional roles in providing education to the military and to provide a forum for facilitating professional development to military educators.

The next COMESC Fall Conference is scheduled for 13-15 November 2002. Check the DANTES web site at <http://voled.doded.mil/acmes/index.htm> for information. Don't miss attending this educational event.

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Education. (*See the April issue for information about his replacement.*)

The Educational Opportunities Directorate was established during FY 2000 to provide a focal point in the Department of Defense (DOD) for creating and implementing a strategy for enhancing educational opportunities for military personnel and their families.

To this end, the directorate has been staffed to deal with the following priorities:

- collaborating with public schools that serve military dependent students,

- enhancing off-duty voluntary education programs for military members,

- creating opportunities for military spouses to participate in higher education programs,

- providing impact aid-related financial assistance to public schools, and

- establishing partnerships with American communities through which to assist Service members transitioning to civilian positions through such programs as Troops to Teachers.

VA WORKSHOPS FROM 4

23 May. Further information on this regional workshop, the registration form, and information on other training opportunities can be found on the Voluntary Education web site at <http://voled.doded.mil/DANTES/TRNGMKTG/workshops.htm>.

Something new for this workshop, according to Ms. Keese, is the SOC pre-workshop training planned for 21 May, also to be held at Old Dominion. All educators, those working for the military or for colleges and universities, are invited to attend either or both of these workshops. There is no cost involved for either the SOC activities or the DANTES workshop.

DANTES Information

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